

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Formulations of TRIPS in favour of Developed Countries

*308 SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the new-item circulated by UNI on 6th July, 2000 which appeared in various newspapers of 7th July all over the country which quoted him as saying that the formulations of the TRIPS are loaded in favour of developed countries and it is at the cost of third world nations; and

(b) if so, whether Government will take initiative to unite the third world nations over the matter?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. India, alongwith other developing countries has in international fora, periodically and consistently highlighted our concerns in the context of enforcement of IPRs, and has inter alia emphasized the need for transfer and dissemination of technology in an equitable and mutually advantageous manner between the developed and developing countries.

Industrial Investment in Bihar

*309. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bihar received the lowest industrial investment proposal, percentage-wise between 1991—2000 when economy was liberalised;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons for the sorry state of affairs in the State; and

(d) the remedial measures Government have initiated to improve industrial scenario in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) No, Sir. The State of Bihar occupies

17th position in terms of industrial intents, both IEM and LOI approved during 1991—2000. Similarly, Bihar ranks 14th in terms of FDI approved during this period.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above. (c) and (d) Industrial Development is the primary responsibility of the State Government. Central Government performs a facilitative role by providing appropriate policy environment at the national level as also industrial promotion/development schemes such as Growth Centre Scheme, etc.

Agreement with US regarding agricultural products

† *310. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some agreement has been reached with America during current years with regard to agricultural products;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether India will get any benefits in the world market after this agreement; and

(d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) An agreement has been signed with the United States of America on 28th December, 1999 as part of our negotiations under Article XXVIII of GATT in order to raise the bound rates of duty on certain agricultural products which had been historically bound at zero or very low tariff rates.

(b) Details of the agreement are given in the attached Statement (*See below*). Agreement has been implemented.

(c) and (d) Benefits to India are substantial because the 15 items

† *Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.